(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several initiatives to bring the unorganised workers in the main stream. There are certain legislations like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 etc. which are partially or fully applicable to these workers. The Government has also set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers *i.e.* beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. The Government has introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill during last session of the Parliament. The objective of the Bill is to guarantee at least 100 days of employment in a year, to atleast one person in every rural household on asset creating public works programmes. The Government has also launched a new wage employment scheme namely National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country to generate supplementary wage employment and provide food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The NFFWP is open to the rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. This programme will be replaced by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Bill for which has been introduced in the Parliament.

(c) and (d) ILO is implementing a Pilot Project on "Decent Employment for Women in India" along with Directorate General of Employment & Training. The objective of this project is to provide Vocational Skills to Women for their better employability. The aim of the project as such is not for creating more employment opportunities but fetching only better employment opportunities.

Number of unskilled labourers

2583. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are having any statistics related to the number of unskilled labourers working all over the country;

(b) whether Government undertake any welfare measures to safeguard the interest of unskilled labourers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government consider to implement the insurance and pensionary benefits to those sectors?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Estimates not available.

(b) and (c) The Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry of Labour & Employment provide welfare facilities in the sphere of Health, Education, Housing and Social Security to the workers of certain non-coal mines/ Beedi & Cine industry, including their dependents. Major initiatives in these spheres include provision of health care through Hospitals/dispensaries/ static-cum-mobile dispensaries of the Labour Welfare Organisation, reimbursement in case of major illnesses, maternity benefits, provision of scholarships, provision of subsidy and contribution for construction of a tenement, financial assistance to the widow of beedi/mine/cine workers for marriage of first two daughters etc.

(d) Several Ministries/Departments have designed insurance schemes for the occupational groups like weavers, handicraft workers, fishermen & fisherwomen, etc. The redesigned Unviersal Health Insurance Scheme is available for the families living below poverty line (BPL). There is also a Janshree Bima Yojana of Life Insurance of Corporation of India (LIC) which provides insurance cover of Rs. 20,000 in case of natural death; Rs. 50,000 in case of death or permanent total disability and Rs. 25,000 in case of partial permanent disability due to an accident.

Funds allocated under Child Labour Welfare and Rehabilitation Scheme

†2584. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of chiid labourers in the country is increasing constantly;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.